UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 320850
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850

EXAMINER
NGUYEN, ALLEN H

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 October 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *01 August 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

        1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

- This office action is responsive to the following communication:

  Amendment filed on 10/15/2007.

- Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application.

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments filed 10/15/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

2.   With respect to applicant's argument that " Matsuyama (US 6,886,028) does not disclose or suggest an edit instruction that is inputted in association with the edit image." of claims 1 and 7 has been considered.

In reply: It is noted that Matsuyama '028 does not disclose an edit instruction that is <u>inputted in association with</u> the edit image, and editing the settings image data based on the edit instruction.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Lin '673. In particular, Lin '673 teaches an edit instruction that is <u>inputted in association with</u> the edit image (i.e., the user may change any of these printing attributes by entering the new attribute in the appropriate window; col. 7, lines 3-5, figs. 3, 8), and editing the settings image data based on the edit instruction (i.e., the new attribute may be typed in the appropriate window, or may be selected by highlighting a selection of a drop-down menu; col. 7, lines 5-10, fig. 8).

In view of the above, having the system of Matsuyama '028 and then given the well-established teaching of Lin '673, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Matsuyama '028 as taught by Lin '673 to include: an edit instruction that is <u>inputted in association with</u> the edit image, and editing the settings image data based on the edit instruction, since Lin stated in col. 2, lines 35-40 that such a modification would enhance a flexibility in changing printing attributes from the user's computer leads to efficiencies and achievement of time and resources.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuyama et al. (US 6,886,028) in view of Lin (US 7,145,673).

Regarding claim 1, Matsuyama '028 discloses an image forming device (a printing control apparatus, fig. 1) comprising:

a communicating portion (a communication unit 3004, fig. 4) connected to a network and capable of performing bi-directional communications (i.e., a

communication unit 3004 exchanges data with the print controller 105, and with

another print server and an image server, controls and evaluates data for the

transmission of image data. Therefore, it is noted that the network system

wherein print servers and client computer are connected via the public network in

a two-way communication; see col. 7, lines 1-4, and figs. 1, 4);

an image forming portion forming images based on image data (i.e., the

individual print servers contain the printers to form the images on the print paper

based on the print data received from the client computer via a communication

unit 3004; see col. 4, lines 21-26), the image forming portion having a plurality of

functions (i.e., the document editing application activates the browser 102 before

the image editing process is begun, downloads, from the center server 105, a

low-resolution image for editing that corresponds to a high-resolution image for

printing, and edits the downloaded image; See col. 9, lines 20-25);

a settings image data providing portion controlling the communicating

portion to provide the network with settings image data (i.e., the print setup

information is HTML data generated for the external apparatus, and the external

apparatus manages the print setup information for each output shop; see col. 2,

lines 25-27, and figs. 17A-B), the settings image data indicating a setting image

used for performing settings related to the plurality of functions possessed by the

image forming portion (i.e., the network peruser 102, which in the client computer

101 is a browser, accesses the WWW server 109 in the print controller 105 and

acquires thumbnail images for image data (print image data) managed by the

print controller 105, and provides them on a display for a user; See col. 4, lines

47-52);

an edit image data providing portion controlling the communicating portion to provide the network with edit image data (i.e., the server 109 of the print controller 105 activates the CGI program designated in the CGI program execution request, and outputs an HTML file as a result; see col. 8, lines 7-9), the edit image data indicating an edit image used for editing the settings image data (i.e., the document editor 104 generates network printing data for a document that is being edited. Included in the printing data, in script form, is editing information, which is history information for editing an image, and the ID of an image that is employed; See col. 10, lines 1-5, fig. 8);

a settings image data editing portion receiving (the print server that is functioning as the output shop edits the printing image to obtain a desired printing form, col. 5, line 25-26), from the network via the communicating portion (i.e., a communication unit 3004 exchanges data with the print controller 105; see col. 7, lines 1-2, and fig. 4).

It is noted that Matsuyama '028 does not disclose an edit instruction that is inputted in association with the edit image, and editing the settings image data based on the edit instruction.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Lin '673. In particular, Lin '673 teaches an edit instruction that is inputted in association with the edit image (i.e., the user may change any of these printing attributes by entering the new attribute in the appropriate window; col. 7, lines 3-5, figs. 3, 8), and editing the settings image data based on

the edit instruction (i.e., the new attribute may be typed in the appropriate window, or may be selected by highlighting a selection of a drop-down menu; col. 7, lines 5-10, fig. 8).

In view of the above, having the system of Matsuyama '028 and then given the well-established teaching of Lin '673, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Matsuyama '028 as taught by Lin '673 to include: an edit instruction that is inputted in association with the edit image, and editing the settings image data based on the edit instruction, since Lin stated in col. 2, lines 35-40 that such a modification would enhance a flexibility in changing printing attributes from the user's computer leads to efficiencies and achievement of time and resources.

Regarding claim 13, Matsuyama '028 does not disclose an image forming device, wherein the edit image data is indicative of the edit image that enables a user to identify a setting item desired to be included in the settings image, and wherein the settings image data editing portion edits the settings image data based on the edit instruction by including only the user's identified setting item in the settings image and by excluding the user's non-identified setting item from the settings image.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Lin '673. In particular, Lin '673 teaches an image forming device (15, fig. 5), wherein the edit image data is indicative of the edit image that

enables a user to identify a setting item desired to be included in the settings

image (the graphical user interface 700/400, figs. 3, 8), and wherein the settings

image data editing portion edits the settings image data based on the edit

instruction by including only the user's identified setting item in the settings image

(i.e., using the graphical user interface 700/400, the user may change any of

these printing attributes by entering the new attribute in the appropriate window.

The new attribute may be typed in the appropriate window, or may be selected

by highlighting a selection of a drop-down menu; see col. 7, lines 2-7, figs. 3, 8)

and by excluding the user's non-identified setting item from the settings image

(The user may also keep the original settings, i.e., chose not to edit the printing

attributes, by selecting a "Cancel" push button 750; col. 7, lines 9-12, fig. 8).

In view of the above, having the system of Matsuyama '028 and then

given the well-established teaching of Lin '673, it would have been obvious to

one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to

modify the system of Matsuyama '028 as taught by Lin '673 to include: an image

forming device, wherein the edit image data is indicative of the edit image that

enables a user to identify a setting item desired to be included in the settings

image, and wherein the settings image data editing portion edits the settings

image data based on the edit instruction by including only the user's identified

setting item in the settings image and by excluding the user's non-identified

setting item from the settings image, since Lin stated in col. 2, lines 35-40 that

such a modification would enhance a flexibility in changing printing attributes

from the user's computer leads to efficiencies and achievement of time and

resources.

Regarding claim 2, Matsuyama '028 does not disclose an image forming

device, wherein the edit image data includes settings item inclusion-setting data

indicative of a settings item inclusion-setting portion in the edit image used for

setting whether or not to include, in the settings image, a setting item used for

performing a setting for each of the plurality of functions,

wherein the settings image data editing portion receives the edit

instruction is inputted in association with the settings item inclusion-setting

portion in the edit image, and edits, based on the edit instruction, the settings

image data to selectively include the setting item for each function in the settings

image.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the

art as evidenced by Lin '673. In particular, Lin '673 teaches an image forming

device (15, fig. 5), wherein the edit image data includes settings item inclusion-

setting data indicative of a settings item inclusion-setting portion in the edit image

used for setting whether or not to include (Duplex, Collate, Staple, Punch with

on/off Display, fig. 3), in the settings image, a setting item used for performing a

setting for each of the plurality of functions (In FIG. 3, the "Set up" graphical user

interface 400 permits the user to select a job type or mode, for example by

selecting "Document Server" on a "Job Type" drop-down menu 410. The user

may also set a variety of printing attributes, such as a print job orientation using

an "Orientation" drop-down menu 420, or a paper size using a "Paper Size" drop-down menu 430; see col. 2, lines 1-10),

wherein the settings image data editing portion receives the edit instruction is <u>inputted in association with</u> the settings item inclusion-setting <u>portion in the edit image</u> (i.e., the user may change any of these printing attributes by entering the new attribute in the appropriate window; col. 7, lines 3-5, figs. 3, 8), and edits, based on the edit instruction, the settings image data to selectively include the setting item for each function in the settings image (i.e., the new attribute may be typed in the appropriate window, or may be selected by highlighting a selection of a drop-down menu; col. 7, lines 5-10, fig. 8).

In view of the above, having the system of Matsuyama '028 and then given the well-established teaching of Lin '673, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Matsuyama '028 as taught by Lin '673 to include: an image forming device, wherein the edit image data includes settings item inclusion-setting data <u>indicative of a settings item inclusion-setting portion in the edit image</u> used for setting whether or not to include, in the settings image, a setting item used for performing a setting for each of the plurality of functions,

wherein the settings image data editing portion receives the edit instruction is <u>inputted in association with</u> the settings item inclusion-setting <u>portion in the edit image,</u> and edits, based on the edit instruction, the settings image data to selectively include the setting item for each function in the settings image, since Lin stated in col. 2, lines 35-40 that such a modification would

enhance a flexibility in changing printing attributes from the user's computer

leads to efficiencies and achievement of time and resources.

Regarding claim 3, Matsuyama '028 does not disclose an image forming

device, wherein the edit image data includes layout setting data <u>indicative of a</u>

<u>layout setting portion in the edit</u> image used for setting an arrangement how the

setting item for each of the plurality of functions is to be selectively arranged in

the settings image,

wherein the settings image data editing portion receives the edit

instruction that is <u>inputted in association with</u> the layout setting, portion <u>in the edit</u>

image, and edits, based on the edit instruction, determines an arrangement how

the setting item for each function is to be selectively arranged in the settings

image.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the

art as evidenced by Lin '673. In particular, Lin '673 teaches an image forming

device (15, fig. 5), wherein the edit image data includes layout setting data

<u>indicative of a layout setting portion in the edit</u> image (Layout 720, figs. 3, 8) used

for setting an arrangement how the setting item for each of the plurality of

functions is to be selectively arranged in the settings image (In FIG. 3, the "Set

up" graphical user interface 400 permits the user to select a job type or mode, for

example by selecting "Document Server" on a "Job Type" drop-down menu 410.

The user may also set a variety of printing attributes, such as a print job

orientation using an "Orientation" drop-down menu 420, or a paper size using a

"Paper Size" drop-down menu 430; see col. 2, lines 1-10),

wherein the settings image data editing portion receives the edit

instruction that is <u>inputted in association with</u> the layout setting (i.e., the user may

change any of these printing attributes by entering the new attribute in the

appropriate window; col. 7, lines 3-5, figs. 3, 8), portion <u>in the edit</u> image, and

edits, based on the edit instruction, determines an arrangement how the setting

item for each function is to be selectively arranged in the settings image (i.e., the

new attribute may be typed in the appropriate window, or may be selected by

highlighting a selection of a drop-down menu; col. 7, lines 5-10, fig. 8).

In view of the above, having the system of Matsuyama '028 and then

given the well-established teaching of Lin '673, it would have been obvious to

one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to

modify the system of Matsuyama '028 as taught by Lin '673 to include: an image

forming device, wherein the edit image data includes layout setting data

<u>indicative of a layout setting portion in the edit</u> image used for setting an

arrangement how the setting item for each of the plurality of functions is to be

selectively arranged in the settings image,

wherein the settings image data editing portion receives the edit

instruction that is <u>inputted in association with</u> the layout setting, portion <u>in the edit</u>

image, and edits, based on the edit instruction, determines an arrangement how

the setting item for each function is to be selectively arranged in the settings

image, since Lin stated in col. 2, lines 35-40 that such a modification would

enhance a flexibility in changing printing attributes from the user's computer

leads to efficiencies and achievement of time and resources.

Regarding claim 4, Matsuyama '028 discloses an image forming device (a

printing control apparatus, fig. 1), wherein the settings image data providing

portion includes:

a storage portion storing a plurality of sets of settings image data (i.e., a

ROM 3003 is used to store operating procedures for the CPU 3001, which

includes a program ROM, for storing a system program for controlling devices in

the print server and an image editing program for editing a printing image; see

col. 6, lines 62-65, and fig. 4);

a selecting portion receiving (i.e., a hard disk drive (HDD) 3009 is used to

store a program for processing a print request received from the print controller

105; see col. 7, lines 11-13, and fig. 4), from the network via the communicating

portion (Communication Unit 3004, fig. 4), a selection instruction specifying one

desired set of settings image data (i.e., a communication unit 3004 exchanges

data with the print controller 1056, and with another print server and an image

server; see col. 7, lines 1-3, and fig. 4), and selecting the desired set of settings

image data from the storage portion (i.e., a communication unit 3004 exchanges,

controls and evaluates data for the transmission of image data; see col. 7, line 3,

and fig. 4).

Regarding claim 5, Matsuyama '028 discloses an image forming device (a printing control apparatus, fig. 1), further comprising an identification data storing portion storing a plurality of sets of identification data in one to one correspondence with the plurality of sets of settings image data (i.e., the print controller 105 obtains an image for printing that is designated by the image ID contained in the printing order, and transmits the printing order and the printing image to the print server 108; see col. 5, lines 6-9),

wherein the edit image data providing portion includes a determining portion receiving a set of identification data (i.e., the printing order is a file including editing information for a script form and an image ID; see col. 9, lines 28-30), via the communicating portion from the network (i.e., the network peruser 102, which in the client computer 101 is a browser, accesses the WWW server 109 in the print controller 105; see col. 4, lines 47-49), and referring to the identification data storing portion to determine whether the received identification data set matches an identification data set that corresponds to the desired set of settings image data specified by the selection instruction, the edit image data providing portion providing the edit image data to the network when the determining portion determines that the identification data sets match (i.e., the document editor 104 generates network printing data for a document that is being edited. Included in the printing data, in script form, is editing information, which is history information for editing an image, and the ID of an image that is employed; see col. 10, lines 1-5).

Regarding claim 6, Matsuyama '028 discloses an image forming device, further comprising:

a displaying portion sequentially displaying (a print detail information display area 902, col. 10, lines 32-33, and fig. 9), in a predetermined order (the printing order execution page, col. 12, line 52, and fig. 12), all the setting items that can be included in the settings image data (i.e., the print detail information display area 902 are a print detail information setup area 903; see col. 10, lines 35-37, and fig. 9);

a setting portion setting whether to include, in the settings image, each setting item displayed by the displaying portion (i.e., a print detail information setup page for displaying the received preview image file and for setting print detail information; see col. 10, lines 15-17),

wherein the settings image data editing portion edits the settings image to include therein those setting items that have been set by the setting portion to be included in the settings image (i.e., the print server that is functioning as the output shop edits the printing image to obtain a desired printing form, and prints it in the form designated in the printing order; see col. 5, lines 24-27).

Regarding claim 7, Matsuyama '028 discloses a network system comprising:

a network (Public Network, fig. 1);

an image forming device (a printing control apparatus, fig. 1) including:

a communicating portion connected to the network and capable of

performing bi-directional communications (i.e., a communication unit 3004

exchanges data with the print controller 105, and with another print server and an

image server, controls and evaluates data for the transmission of image data.

Therefore, it is noted that the network system wherein print servers and client

computer are connected via the public network in a two-way communication; see

col. 7, lines 1-4, and figs. 1, 4);

a personal computer (101, fig. 1) including:

a communicating device connected to the network and capable of

performing bi-directional communications (i.e., a communication unit 1004

exchanges data with the print controller 105, with which communication may be

conducted via a connection to the Internet provided by a dial-up connection to a

public line, or via a LAN connection to a proxy server on a dedicated line.

Therefore, it is noted that the network system wherein print servers and client

computer are connected via the public network in a two-way communication; see

col. 5, lines 48-52, and figs. 1-2);

a display device displaying an image based on image data from the image

forming device via the communicating device (i.e., display data generation

means having a CGI function for employing the information held by the client

computer and separately acquired HTML template data to generate HTML data

that the network browsing means is capable of displaying; see col. 2, lines 43-

47);

an instruction inputting portion enabling a user to input various

instructions (i.e., a keyboard controller 1007 controls a signal entered at an

external input device 1008, such as a keyboard; see col. 5, lines 56-57, and fig.

2);

a transmitting portion controlling the communicating device to transmit the

instructions inputted via the instruction inputting portion to the image forming

device via the network (i.e., a communication unit 1004 exchanges data with the

print controller 105, with which communication may be conducted via a

connection to the Internet provided by a dial-up connection to a public line, or via

a LAN; see col. 5, lines 48-52, and fig. 2),

wherein the image forming device (a printing control apparatus, fig. 1)

further includes:

an image forming portion forming images based on image data (i.e., the

individual print servers contain the printers to form the images on the print paper

based on the print data received from the client computer via a communication

unit 3004; see col. 4, lines 21-26), the image forming portion having a plurality of

functions (i.e., the document editing application activates the browser 102 before

the image editing process is begun, downloads, from the center server 105, a

low-resolution image for editing that corresponds to a high-resolution image for

printing, and edits the downloaded image; see col. 9, lines 20-25);

a settings image data providing portion controlling the communicating

portion to provide via the network the personal computer with settings image data

(i.e., the print setup information is HTML data generated for the external

apparatus, and the external apparatus manages the print setup information for

each output shop; see col. 2, lines 25-27, and figs. 17A-B), the settings image

data indicating a setting image used for performing settings related to the

plurality of functions possessed by the image forming portion (i.e., the network

peruser 102, which in the client computer 101 is a browser, accesses the WWW

server 109 in the print controller 105 and acquires thumbnail images for image .

data (print image data) managed by the print controller 105, and provides them

on a display for a user; see col. 4, lines 47-52);

an edit image data providing portion controlling the communicating portion

to provide via the network the personal computer with edit image data (i.e., the

WWW server 109 of the print controller 105 activates the CGI program

designated in the CGI program execution request, and outputs an HTML file as a

result; see col. 8, lines 7-9), the edit image data indicating an edit image used for

editing the settings image data (i.e., menu of a document editing application by

using a pointing device, and the client computer 101 transmits to the WWW

server 109 of the print controller 105, via the communication unit 1004, an HTML

file acquisition request from the network peruser 103; see col. 7, lines 42-50);

a settings image data editing portion receiving (upon receiving of a print

request a printing order, col. 13, line 32), from the personal computer via the

network and the communicating portion (i.e., a communication unit 1004

exchanges data with the print controller 105; see col. 5, lines 48-49).

wherein the transmitting portion in the personal computer controls the

communicating device to transmit to the image forming device a request to send

the edit image data when the instruction inputting portion receives the user's

request to edit the settings image (i.e., menu of a document editing application by

using a pointing device, and the client computer 101 transmits to the WWW

server 109 of the print controller 105, via the communication unit 1004, an HTML

file acquisition request from the network peruser 103; see col. 7, lines 42-50), the

edit image data providing portion in the image forming device controlling the

communicating portion to transmit the edit image data to the personal computer

upon receipt of the request (i.e., upon receiving an acquisition request for an

HTML file from the network peruser 102 in the client computer 101, the WWW

server 109 transmits the desired HTML file to the network peruser 102; see col.

4, lines 39-42), the display device in the personal computer displaying the edit

image based on the edit image data (i.e., a video RAM (VRAM) 1005 develops

an image displayed on the screen of a CRT 1006 representing the operating

state of the system, and controls the display; see col. 5, lines 53-55, fig. 2),

wherein the transmitting portion in the personal computer controls the

communicating device to transmit to the image forming device the edit instruction

that the user inputs in the instruction inputting portion while viewing the edit

image on the displaying device (i.e., the network peruser 102, which in the client

computer 101 is a browser, accesses the WWW server 109 in the print controller

105 and acquires thumbnail images for image data (print image data) managed

by the print controller 105, and provides them on a display for a user; see col. 4,

lines 47-52, fig. 1).

It is noted that Matsuyama '028 does not disclose an edit instruction that

to-the user inputs in the instruction inputting portion in association with the edit

image, and editing the settings image data based on the edit instruction.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Lin '673. In particular, Lin '673 teaches an edit instruction that to-the <u>user inputs in the instruction inputting portion in association with</u> the edit image (i.e., the user may change any of these printing attributes by entering the new attribute in the appropriate window; col. 7, lines 3-5, figs. 3, 8), and editing the settings image data based on the edit instruction (i.e., the new attribute may be typed in the appropriate window, or may be selected by highlighting a selection of a drop-down menu; col. 7, lines 5-10, fig. 8).

In view of the above, having the system of Matsuyama '028 and then given the well-established teaching of Lin '673, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Matsuyama '028 as taught by Lin '673 to include: an edit instruction that is <u>inputted in association with</u> the edit image, and editing the settings image data based on the edit instruction, since Lin stated in col. 2, lines 35-40 that such a modification would enhance a flexibility in changing printing attributes from the user's computer leads to efficiencies and achievement of time and resources.

Regarding claim 14, Matsuyama '028 does not disclose a network system, wherein the edit image data is indicative of the edit image that enables the user to identify a setting item desired to be included in the settings image, and wherein the settings image data editing portion edits the settings image data based on the edit instruction by including only the user's identified setting item in

the settings image and by excluding the user's non-identified setting item from

the settings image.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the

art as evidenced by Lin '673. In particular, Lin '673 teaches a network system

(figs. 1-2), wherein the edit image data is indicative of the edit image that enables

the user to identify a setting item desired to be included in the settings image (the

graphical user interface 700/400, figs. 3, 8), and wherein the settings image data

editing portion edits the settings image data based on the edit instruction by

including only the user's identified setting item in the settings image (i.e., using

the graphical user interface 700/400, the user may change any of these printing

attributes by entering the new attribute in the appropriate window. The new

attribute may be typed in the appropriate window, or may be selected by

highlighting a selection of a drop-down menu; see col. 7, lines 2-7, figs. 3, 8) and

by excluding the user's non-identified setting item from the settings image (The

user may also keep the original settings, i.e., chose not to edit the printing

attributes, by selecting a "Cancel" push button 750; col. 7, lines 9-12, fig. 8).

In view of the above, having the system of Matsuyama '028 and then

given the well-established teaching of Lin '673, it would have been obvious to

one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to

modify the system of Matsuyama '028 as taught by Lin '673 to include: a

network system, wherein the edit image data is indicative of the edit image that

enables the user to identify a setting item desired to be included in the settings

image, and wherein the settings image data editing portion edits the settings

image data based on the edit instruction by including only the user's identified

setting item in the settings image and by excluding the user's non-identified

setting item from the settings image, since Lin stated in col. 2, lines 35-40 that

such a modification would enhance a flexibility in changing printing attributes

from the user's computer leads to efficiencies and achievement of time and

resources.

Regarding claim 8, Matsuyama '028 discloses a network system (fig. 1),

wherein is the edit image data includes settings item inclusion-setting data (a

diagram showing a print detail information setup page, fig. 9), the display device

in the personal computer displaying the edit image including a setting-item

inclusion-setting portion based on the settings item inclusion-setting data (i.e., a

preview image generated by the document editor 104 is displayed by the network

peruser 102 in a preview image display area 901; see col. 10, lines 30-32), the

instruction inputting portion receiving the user's setting-item inclusion setting

instruction indicating his/her desire whether or not to include (i.e., a print detail

information setup area 903, wherein a print server name, a printing sheet size

and the number of copies are designated, and a decision button 904, for starting

the generation of a printing order; see col. 10, lines 36-40), in the settings image

(Set Print Detail, fig. 9), a setting item used for performing a setting for each of

the plurality of functions (i.e., the printing order request function expander is the

function expander 103, for the network peruser 102, that displays an execute

button in the fee display page, and that executes a corresponding function in response to the depression of the button; see col. 11, lines 13-16, and fig. 11),

wherein the settings image data editing portion receives the setting-item inclusion setting instruction (i.e., set print details included in the print detail information display area 902 are a print detail information setup area 903; see col. 10, lines 35-37 and fig. 9), and edits (Document Editor 104 to edit, fig. 1), based on the setting-item inclusion setting instruction (a print detail information setup page, col. 10, line 29), the settings image data to selectively include the setting item for each function in the settings image (i.e., the print server name in the pop-up list 905 is selected, the printing order generation function expander reads a print server information file, a shop information file; see col. 10, lines 45-47).

Regarding claim 9, Matsuyama '028 discloses a network system (fig. 1), wherein the edit image data includes layout setting data (i.e., a document file that is created by the document editor 104; see col. 5, lines 63-64), the display device in the personal computer displaying the edit image including a layout setting portion based on the layout setting data (a Set Print Detail, fig. 9), the instruction inputting portion receiving the user's layout setting instruction indicating his/her desired arrangement how the setting item for each of the plurality of functions is to he selectively arranged in the settings image (i.e., a pop-up list is used to selectively arrange the plurality of functions included in a list of file names of print server information files from the print controller 105; see col. 10, lines 40-45),

wherein the settings image data editing portion receives the layout setting

instruction (i.e., a document editor 104, which is operated by the client computer

101, has as one function the creation or the editing of a document; see col. 4,

lines 3-5), and edits (Document Editor 104, fig. 1), based on the layout setting

instruction (a print detail information setup area 903, col. 10, lines 36-37),

determines an arrangement how the setting item for each function is to be

selectively arranged in the settings image (i.e., a pop-up list is used to selectively

arrange the plurality of functions included in a list of file names of print server

information files from the print controller 105; see col. 10, lines 40-45).

Regarding claim 10, Matsuyama '028 discloses a network (fig. 1), wherein

the instruction inputting portion enables the user to input (i.e., the user has

depressed the execute button 1102 using the external input device 1008; see col.

11, lines 28-29, fig. 11), into the layout setting portion (a fee display fee, col. 11,

line 18, fig. 11), his/her desired setting items in an order desired to be arranged

in the settings image (i.e., the setting items which are displayed by the printing

order request function expander; see col. 11, lines 21-22).

Regarding claim 11, Matsuyama '028 discloses a network (fig. 1), wherein

the instruction inputting portion enables the user to input (i.e., the user has

depressed the execute button 1102 using the external input device 1008; see col.

11, lines 28-29, fig. 11), into the layout setting portion (a fee display fee, col. 11,

line 18, fig. 11), arrangement data indicative of his/her desired arrangement (i.e.,

the printing order request function expander (a plug-in) 103 writes additional fee

information in the printing order file; see col. 11, lines 29-30), in which his/her

desired setting item is to be arranged in the settings image (and sets up the

session, col. 11, line 33).

Regarding claim 12, Matsuyama '028 discloses a network system, wherein a

plurality of sets of identification data being assigned to the plurality of personal

computers (i.e., the print controller 105 obtains an image for printing that is

designated by the image ID contained in the printing order, and transmits the

printing order and the printing image to the print server 108; see col. 5, lines 5-9)

wherein the settings image data providing portion in the image forming

device includes:

a storage portion storing a plurality of sets of settings image data in one to

one correspondence with the plurality of computers (i.e., the information

processing apparatus further comprises storage means for storing the print setup

information, and examines the print setup information stored in the storage

means to determine the print setup information; see col. 2, lines 4-7);

a selecting portion receiving (i.e., a hard disk drive (HDD) 3009 is used to

store a program for processing a print request received from the print controller

105; see col. 7, lines 11-13, and fig. 4), from one personal computer via the

network (i.e., a network peruser 102 functions as a browser operated by the

client computer 101; see col. 3, lines 40-41), a selection instruction specifying

one desired set of settings image data (i.e., the network peruser 102 interprets a

file composed using HTML that is obtained via the Internet and a network from a

WWW (World Wide Web) server 109 in the print controller 105; see col. 3, lines

41-45), and selecting the desired set of settings image data from the storage

portion (it displays the results on the client computer 101, col. 3, line 47),

further comprising an identification data storing portion storing a plurality

of sets of identification data in one to one correspondence with the plurality of

sets of settings image data (i.e., the print controller 105 obtains an image for

printing that is designated by the image ID contained in the printing order, and

transmits the printing order and the printing image to the print server 108; see

col. 5, lines 6-9),

wherein the edit image data providing portion includes a determining

portion receiving a set of identification data (i.e., it generates editing information

concerning locations whereat individual images having image IDs are to be

pasted; see col. 4, lines 56-58), from the personal computer via the network (i.e.,

the network peruser 102, which in the client computer 101 is a browser,

accesses the WWW server 109 in the print controller 105; see col. 4, lines 47-

49), and referring to the identification data storing portion to determine whether

the received identification data set matches an identification data set that

corresponds to the desired set of settings image data specified by the selection

instruction (i.e., based on the editing information, the document editor 104

activates the network peruser 102 to prepare a printing order; see col. 4, lines

60-61), the edit image data providing portion providing the edit image data to the

personal computer when the determining portion determines that the

identification data sets match (i.e., the print controller 105 obtains an image for

printing that is designated by the image ID contained in the printing order, and

transmits the printing order and the printing image to the print server 108; see

col. 5, lines 5-9).

It is noted that Matsuyama '028 does not explicitly show a network system,

wherein the personal computer includes a plurality of personal computers.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art

as evidenced by Arakawa '076. In particular, Lin '673 teaches the use of a

network system (fig. 1), wherein the personal computer includes a plurality of

personal computers (computers 20, fig. 1).

In view of the above, having the system of Matsuyama '028 and then

given the well-established teaching of Lin '673, it would have been obvious to

one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to

modify the system of Matsuyama '028 as taught by Lin '673 to include: a

network system, wherein the personal computer includes a plurality of personal

computers, since Lin stated in col. 1, lines 20-25 that such a modification would

ensure in larger offices, printers are often connected to a network, to which other

printers and a number of computers may be connected.

Conclusion

5.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

Mori et al. (US 7,046,385) discloses print control method, apparatus, computer-readable storage medium, and program embodied in a computer-readable medium for managing document information on a page basis.

Kujirai et al. (US 6,618,566) discloses print control apparatus for generating accounting information relating to a print job.

Kurahashi et al. (US 5,687,332) discloses image edit processing system.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.
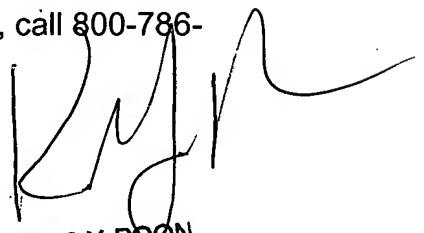
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on (571)-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KING Y. POON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

AN

01/07/2008